



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Stephen B. Maguire  
Serial No. : 09/157,238  
Filed : 18 September 1998  
Title : LOW PRESSURE DRYER

GP 3744

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Our File: 1098-98

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

H. Heron  
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amita  
4-12-99

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of this application on the merits,  
please add the following claims:

9. A method for continuously drying granular or powdery material in batches preparatory to mixing, molding, extruding or other processing of that material, comprising the steps of:
- a. supplying granular or powdery material to a closeable shell at a fill position;
  - b. heating said material within said shell by introduction of heated air thereinto;
  - c. moving said shell to a vacuum drying position and sealing said shell thereat;

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19 March 1999 \*kas\*

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